Bill read 19 Dec. 1694

A MODEST REPLY to the CITY-REASONS againſt the *APOTHECARIES* BILL.

Humbly Submitted to the Conſideration of this preſent Parliament.

FIRST, It is alledg'd againſt the Bill, That the *Ground* thereof is *Falſe* ; viz. *That the Apothecaries ſerving Pariſh, Ward, and Leet Offices, takes up ſo much of their Time, that they cannot perform their Truſt in their Trade, or attend their Patients according to their Duty.*

Anſwer, This Suggeſtion had been indeed *Falſe*, could thoſe ſeveral Offices have been executed *without* employing any time therein.

'Tis ſuggeſted, That the *Duty* of (and the only **Truſt** repoſed in) the *Apothecaries*, is to make and compound their Medicines, and *then* to carry or *ſend* them by their reſpective Servants (as other Tradeſmen do).

Anſwer, It were for the *Eaſe* and *Intereſt* of the Apothecaries to wiſh, that their Attendance were never required, and that the Neceſſity of the Caſe did never *diſpenſe* with their adminiſtring Phyſick without a Phyſician's Preſcription: But it is ſo **Notorious** in *Fact* as it needs no Proof, That did not the Apothecaries in Charity *Give* to many both their *Attendance* and *Phyſick*, ſome Thouſands *would periſh*, ſeeing their unhappy *Incapacity* can pay for neither.

This is not alledg'd to plead for a *Liberty* of Practice, but only to *expoſe* the *evident Falſity* of the Suggeſtion: And it's preſumed, *ſcarce* any that *oppoſe* this Bill would *employ that Apothecary* who ſhould *only ſend his Servants, refuſing in Perſon to viſit*, whilſt he was under a Phyſical Preſcription.

Secondly, Whereas it is ſuggeſted, That *moſt* of the Offices in the Bill mentioned may be *executed* by Deputy:

Anſwer, This is *equally Chargeable* with Fining: **And if the Perſonal Attendance of this Profeſſion in thoſe Offices is not conſiſtent with the Common Intereſt, It's humbly ſubmitted to the Great Wiſdom of this Honourable Houſe, Whether it's reaſonable that the Profeſſors ſhould be thus charged; for that is in effect buying an Exemption for a General Good.** *Which (with all due Submiſſion) it may be hop'd this Honourable Parliament will now* **Grant without Price.** As for Judge *Rolls*'s ſerving an Office by Deputy, it was by the *Recorder of London* confeſs'd to be done *Ex Gratia*.

It is ſuggeſted, That the Apothecaries are *Ambitious* of ſeveral Offices of *Honour* and *Profit*, in which as much of their Time is ſpent, as in thoſe they would now be exempted from.

Anſwer, There are not above *Eight* Apothecaries Common-Council-men; *but One* (at preſent) an Alderman's Deputy; *but One* in the Lieutenancy; *not exceeding Two* in Commiſſion, in the City of *London*; neither of which was by them ſought.

As for their ſpending ſome Time in Electing Lord-Mayor, *&c.* thoſe Elections are *very ſeldom*, and ſo but a *ſmall* part of their Time therein ſpent: And being in them a *voluntary* Act, it's *never done to the Neglect of their Patients.* But it is quite otherwiſe in thoſe Offices, which *poſitively require their Perſonal Service.*

Thirdly, 'tis Objected, That the Apothecaries have *not* the *ſame Reaſons for* Exemptions as the *Phyſitians*, whoſe *Perſonal Attendance* is required, and they cannot act by *Proxy*.

Anſwer, 'Tis confeſs'd that Phyſicians *muſt* Act in Perſon: And it is as **manifeſt** Truth that the Apothecaries **doe**, and (as before obſerved) in a *thouſand* inſtances **muſt**, or the Patients **muſt** *periſh. And which of theſe two ſpend* **moſt** *time on their Patients* (with humble Submiſſion) **moſt** *deſerve an Exemption.*

Some of the Learnea'ſt and Eminent'ſt Phyſicians **knowing** *the grounds of this Bill to be* **true**, *have induſtriouſly promoted the Paſſing thereof; for which the Apothecaries think themſelves in gratitude bound to make their publick acknowledgment.*

Fourthly, 'Tis aſſerted that the *Fines* for Offices by Act of Common-Council are *forbid* to be applied to *Feaſting*, &c.

Anſwer, This very *Prohibition* proves the *before*-common Abuſes of thoſe Fines, and it can plainly be proved, that notwithſtanding that Act (in the greateſt part of them) they are ſtill miſſpent in luxurious Treats.

Fifthly, As for the Univerſal Exemption of all Apothecaries throughout the Kingdom by thoſe Reaſons complained of.

Anſwer, Upon *firſt* reading this Bill, the *grounds thereof, and the benefits thereby, were thought ſo reaſonable and advantageous, that a worthy Member of the Houſe Mov'd the Exemption might extend to* **all** *Parts of* England. This motion was ſo *well* approv'd of, that the Bill was immediately alter'd to its now latitude.

Sixthly, 'Tis Objected, That the *preſent* Exemptions from Offices are already *too many*, and that *ſuch Immunities* tend to the *great Oppreſſion of the Subject, eſpecially the* **poorer** *ſort*.

Anſwer, There are *not* above **Three hundred thirty ſeven** *Apothecaries* within the Bills of *Mortality*; and *modeſtly* ſpeaking, there are **One hundred thirty three thouſand** houſes; ſo *that there is* **but one** Apothecary to **four hundred** Families, and *above* **Two thouſand** perſons to an **Apothecary** within thoſe Limits.

Now admitting that the Apothecaries **Abuſed Fines** for Offices, *Communibus Annis*, come to **One Hundred Pounds** *per Ann.* (which is the moſt they would amount to) the Forgiving thoſe **Miſ-ſpent** *Fines* would not be **One Farthing Yearly Charge** to *each* of the above-Number of Houſes: For 133 *Thouſand* Farthings come to 138 *l.* 10 *s.* and 10 *d. And how very Oppreſſive* **this** *deſired Exemption would* **thus** *prove, deſerved the Conſideration of the Objectors, before they made this Groundleſs Suggeſtion.*

And whereas theſe Gentlemen alledge that the *Poorer* ſort will be *moſt* grieved by Paſſing this Bill: It's humbly conceived (for the Reaſons before alledged) *That thoſe will receive the* **greateſt** *Benefits by the Paſſing thereof.*

Now whether the Apothecary's Profeſſion **Only** *ſhould be charged with this* 100 l. per Ann. *in their Fines for their Exemption, or the* **One hundred thirty three thouſand** *Families that receive the Advantages of their due undiſturbed Attendance on their Profeſſion, is at preſent under the mature Conſideration of this Auguſt and Honourable Aſſembly: To whoſe great Wiſdom the Premiſes are moſt humbly ſubmitted.*

A

Modeſt Reply

TO THE

CITY-REASONS

Againſt the

Apothecaries BILL.